

REMARKS

This communication is in response to the Office Action mailed on September 21, 2006. In the Office Action, claims 1-20 and 31-40 were pending. Claims 21-30 were withdrawn from consideration. With this amendment, claims 1 and 2 have been amended to correct minor errors therein, claims 21-31 have been cancelled and claims 41-51 have been added.

The Office Action first reports that restriction to one invention from group I (claims 1-20 and 32-40) and group II (claims 21-30) was required. Applicant hereby affirms the election to prosecute claims 1-20 and 32-40. As such, claims 21-31 have been cancelled.

The Office Action further reports that claims 1-20 and 32-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Elder (U.S. Patent Application 20050043940). Submitted with this Amendment is a Declaration Under 37 CFR Section 1.131, made by the inventors of the above-identified patent application, which removes the Elder patent application as a prior art reference. The submitted Declaration establishes that the present invention was conceived of and reduced to practice prior to August 20, 2003, which is the filing date of Elder. As of yet, not all of the inventors have executed the declaration. Since the Elder patent application is not available as a prior art reference, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1-20 and 32-40 be withdrawn.

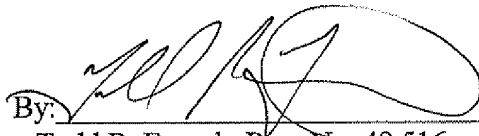
Furthermore, Applicants have added claims 41-51, which are further believed to be allowable over the prior art. Allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the present application be allowed. Favorable action is requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTMAN, CHAMPLIN & KELLY, P.A.

By: 

Todd R. Fronek, Reg. No. 48,516
900 Second Avenue South, Suite 1400
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-3319
Phone: (612) 334-3222 Fax: (612) 334-3312

TRF:rdg